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Memorandum
From the office of
Chairman Doug Little
Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 W. WASHINGTON
PHOENIX, ARIZONA
(602) 542-0745

Arizona Corporation Commission
DOCKETED

MAR 18 2016

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TO: Docket Control

DATE: March 18, 2016

FROM: Chairman Doug Little's Office

SUBJECT: W-20919A-16-0068

Chairman Little's office received the attached letter from Senator Carlyle W. Begay regarding the above Docket number. The letter, along with Chairman Little's reply, can be viewed in Docket Control or on the website, via the eDocket link.

CARLYLE W. BEGAY
DISTRICT 7

STATE SENATOR
FIFTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

ARIZONA STATE SENATE
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85007
PHONE (602) 926-5862
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COMMITTEES:

EDUCATION
TRANSPORTATION
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
COMMERCE & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Arizona State Senate

Dear Chairman Little and Commissioners:

I write to the Arizona Corporation Commission regarding Docket Number W-20919A-16-0068, which is the application of the Arizona Windsong Water Company (Windsong) located in Sanders, Arizona to transfer its water system to the Navajo Tribal Utilities Authority (NTUA).

Windsong has provided water to Sanders for nearly 50 years. Over time, many groups have contributed to help Windsong improve its infrastructure and provide safe and reliable water service to the community, including NTUA, Arizonans for Responsible Water Policy, and Arizona Public Service Company. Despite this tremendous assistance, Windsong's system has been unable to overcome the uranium pollution that has plagued the Navajo Nation for decades.

Just last year, residents of Sanders learned that their local water actually contained more than twice the legal limit of uranium and were advised not to drink, bathe, cook, or clean with it. But Sanders has no alternative water source. Residents are forced to use the irradiated water or, like the Sanders Unified School District, spend a considerable amount of money on bottled water. There has been help from organizations like St. Mary's Foodbank, which has sent many cases of clean bottled water to Sanders.

A long-term solution, however, is desperately needed for the people of Sanders. This is where the Commission can help. An application to transfer Windsong's water system to NTUA is pending before the Commission. Both parties agree that this needs to happen, and NTUA is in the position to immediately provide clean, fresh water to the people of Sanders upon approval of the Commission.

I urge the Arizona Corporation Commission to process, consider, and approve this application as expeditiously as possible. The people of Sanders are counting on you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carlyle W. Begay".

CARLYLE W. BEGAY
State Senator – Legislative District 7

COMMISSIONERS
DOUG LITTLE - Chairman
BOB STUMP
BOB BURNS
TOM FORESE
ANDY TOBIN



**ARIZONA CORPORATION
COMMISSION**

DOUG LITTLE
CHAIRMAN

Direct Line: (602) 542-0745
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March 17, 2016

Senator Carlyle W. Begay
Arizona State Senate
1700 W. Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Senator Begay:

Thank you for your letter regarding Arizona Windsong Water Company. (ACC Docket 20919A-16-0068).

I received your letter outlining the very serious circumstances the customers of Arizona Windsong Water Company (Arizona Windsong) find themselves experiencing. I personally understand the seriousness of the water situation in Sanders and over the past 3 months the Commission has been moving forward to identify a long-term solution including the possible transfer of the Arizona Windsong Water System to the Navajo Tribal Utilities Authority (NTUA).

At the Commission's January 12th, 2016 Open Meeting, we approved an order that would cancel the Certificate of Convenience and Necessity for Arizona Windsong that would otherwise be an impediment to the transfer of their customers and assets to the NTUA. This was the first step in moving forward with an application to transfer.

On February 24, 2016, we received an application from Arizona Windsong to authorize a transfer of the water system and customers to NTUA as soon as possible. At a procedural conference on March 3rd, a procedural order was entered directing that our Utilities Division staff present a report on their recommendations no later than March 18th and, schedule a hearing on the matter, which would commence on March 21, 2016. This procedural schedule was necessary to comply with the public noticing requirements associated with an action of this type.

We expect the hearing to be concluded on or very shortly after March 21st, 2016. Barring any unforeseen circumstances, I would expect that this matter will be considered and resolved at the April 12th, 2016 Open Meeting of the Commission.

I very much appreciate your support and would like to personally assure you that the health and safety of the customers of Arizona Windsong are our primary concern in this matter. My personal commitment to you is that we will move this case as quickly as we possibly can, while ensuring that we comply with all legal requirements in order to avoid any future complications of any transfer.

Sincerely,

Doug Little